REMARKS

Claim 1 is amended to include the limitations of claims 2 and 4, both of which are now cancelled. Independent claims 6, 11, 16, 21, and 26 are similarly amended, with limitations from dependent claims 7, 9, 12, 14, 17, 19, 22, 25, 27, and 29. Claims 2, 4, 7, 9, 12, 14, 17, 19, 22, 24, 27, and 29 are cancelled. Various dependent claims are amended to change the dependencies. Claims 1, 3, 5-6, 8, 10-11, 13, 15-16, 18, 20-21, 23, 25-26, 28, and 30 are pending in this application. Reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Claims 11-15 are understood to be novel under 35 USC §102(e) over "Choi" (U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2003/0227930 to Choi et al.). The rejection is respectfully traversed because the Office Action does not show that all the limitations of the claims are taught by Choi.

Claim 11 is amended to include the limitations of claim 14, and those limitations specify that the network identifier of the remote computing device comprises a range of TCP sequence numbers of the data connection. The other limitations of claim 11 specify that a collection of unique identifiers is searched for a match to the selected transport identifier, wherein each unique identifier includes a transport identifier and a network identifier and is associated with an existing data connection of the first processor arrangement. If no unique identifier of the collection has a transport identifier that matches the selected transport identifier and a network identifier that matches a network identifier of the second processor arrangement, then the transport identifier is allocated to the data connection, a new unique identifier is formed from the selected transport identifier and the network identifier of the second processor arrangement, and the new unique identifier is added to the collection. Thus, limitations related to the TCP sequence number relate to the use thereof which is beyond that suggested by the prior art.

The claimed use of the TCP sequence numbers is that each unique identifier in the collection of unique identifiers includes both a transport identifier and a network identifier, and the network identifier includes a range of TCP sequence numbers. The unique identifiers in the collection are used in allocating a transport identifier. That is, if

no unique identifier of the collection has a transport identifier that matches the selected transport identifier and a network identifier matches a network identifier of the second processor arrangement, then the transport identifier is allocated to the data connection. Thus, the network identifier, which includes a range of TCP sequence numbers, is used in the determining of the match since it is part of the network identifier. This use of TCP sequence numbers in the allocating of a transport identifier in a TCP connection is neither shown nor suggested by the prior art.

Therefore, the rejection of claims 11-15 should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-3, 5, and 16-18 are understood to be patentable under 35 USC §103(a) over "Chang" (U.S. Patent No. 6,338,078 to Chang et al.) in view of "Attanasio" (U.S. Patent No. 5,371,852 to Attanasio et al.). The rejection is respectfully traversed because the Office Action does not show that all the limitations are suggested by the combination and does not provide a proper motivation for modifying the teachings of Chang with teachings of Attanasio. Independent claim 1 is amended to include the limitations of claim 4, which is now cancelled, and 16 is amended to include the limitations of claim 19 which is also now cancelled. Thus, the rejection is now moot. Therefore, the rejection of claims 1 and 16 and dependent claims 3, 5, and 17-18 should be withdrawn.

Claims 4, 6-10, and 19-30 are understood to be patentable under 35 USC §103(a) over the Chang-Attanasio combination in view of "Bal" (U.S. Patent No. 6,691,168 to Bal et al.) The rejection is respectfully traversed because the Office Action does not show that all the limitations are suggested by the combination and does not provide a proper motivation for modifying the teachings of Chang with teachings of Attanasio and Bal.

As to claim 4, the limitations of which are now included in amended claim 1, the limitations specify that the permitting association of duplicate dynamic transport identifiers for two or more of the data connections comprises determining that respective ranges of TCP sequence numbers of the two or more data connections are different. The cited portion of Attanasio makes no mention of TCP sequence numbers.

(which are normally used by the TCP to ensure completeness and ordering of data packets [0038]). Attanasio teaches that different ranges of port numbers are used for servers and clients. Those skilled in the art will recognize that TCP sequence numbers are different from TCP port numbers. Thus, the limitations of claim 4 are not shown to be suggested by the combination.

Claim 6 is amended to include similar limitations from claim 9, claim 16 is amended to include similar limitations from claim 19, claim 21 is amended to include limitations from claim 24, and claim 26 is amended to include similar limitations from claim 29. Thus, the limitations of claims 4, 6-10, and 19-30 are not shown to be suggested by the prior art, and the rejection should be withdrawn because a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established.

Withdrawal of the rejection and reconsideration of the claims are respectfully requested. If the examiner has any questions or concerns, a telephone call to the undersigned is welcome. A petition for a one-month extension of time is submitted herewith. No further extension of time is believed to be necessary for consideration of this response. However, if any additional extension of time is required, please consider this a petition for a sufficient number of months for consideration of this response. If there are any additional fees in connection with this response, please charge Deposit Account No. 50-0996 (HPCO.126PA).

Respectfully submitted,

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